

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/079 W

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R 121415Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7601
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USNMR SHAPE BEL
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0978

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC
USCINCEUR FOR POLAD
USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY
SUBJECT: TFSC PRIMIN KONUK AGAIN ASKS TO RESIGN

REF: (A) NICOSIA 0796 (DTG 241730Z MAR 78)
(B) NICOSIA 0844 (DTG 300838Z MAR 78)

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1. RFSC "PRIMIN" KONUK REQUESTED PRESIDENT DENKTASH APRIL
11 TO RELIEVE HIM OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR FORMING A NEW
CABINET. STATED REASON WAS A "HEART SPASM" APRIL 10, THE
SECOND IN LAST WEEK. PRESS REPORTS KONUK HAS BEEN
ADVISED BY DOCTORS TO TAKE COMPLETE REST FOR TEN DAYS.
DENKTASH HAS NOT YET ANNOUNCED WHETHER HE WILL ACCEPT
KONUK'S RESIGNATION.

2. COMMENT: KONUK IS REPORTED NOT IN BEST OF HEALTH, BUT HIS REQUEST TO RESIGN (FOR THIRD TIME IN LAST THREE WEEKS) MAY BE AS MUCH FOR POLITICAL AS FOR HEALTH REASONS. KONUK HAD EARLIER STATED AS PRE-CONDITION FOR AGAIN ACCEPTING PRIME MINISTERSHIP THAT RULING NATIONAL UNITY PARTY PARLIAMENTARIANS UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORT ALL GOVERNMENT DECISIONS. DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN OBTAINING COMPETING PARTY BARONS' AGREEMENT ON CABINET COMPOSITION AS WELL AS TFCSC ECONOMIC POLICIES WOULD GIVE EVEN HEALTHY PERSON SEVERE HEARTBURN. WE ALSO SUSPECT SOME NUP LEADERS (INCLUDING KONUK) ARE UNHAPPY WITH GOT-INSPIRED TURKISH CYPRIOT NEGOTIATING PROPOSALS, SOME BELIEVING THEM TOO-CONCILIATORY AND OTHERS URGING MORE CONCESSIONS.

3. IF DENKTASH ACCEPTS KONUK'S RESIGNATION, HE WILL THEN DESIGNATE A NEW PRIME MINISTER FROM THE ASSEMBLY. MININT BILEGHAN, NUP SEC GEN, MAY HAVE ELIMINATED HIMSELF FROM CONSIDERATION BY BECOMING PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED AS MEMBER OF DUMP-KONUK CLIQUE BUT HE IS STILL A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE. OTHER LEADING CONTENDERS COULD BE NON-CONTROVERSIAL OSMAN OREK, PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY, AND MINDEF AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS VEDAT CHELIK. END COMMENT.
STONE

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PGOV, CY, (KONUK, NECAT)
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